

As the president of the local cable company Board of Directors I would like to state that we are very much against any FCC rule changes that would in the future present problems with our current ability to fund our studio operations and programming.

Since Amesbury Community Television derives almost all (over 95%) of our budget from Comcast remittances, as stipulated in our contract and based on a percentage of the local Comcast subscribers, and since there is no possible funding alternative, any changes to this funding stream could destroy our local cable access.

We provide the community with valuable public information such as municipal meetings (City Council, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, School Committee), local school sports programming, local religious and community programming, as well as local access; this would severely and detrimentally impact public dissemination of this information. There are many Amesbury residents who rely on this information to keep abreast of what is happening in our community.

It appears that the changes outlined in this proposal could result in an abandonment of local cable station funding and programming for our small community, as well as for the other local community access providers throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For this reason we would like to submit our disapproval for the changes as described.